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**MISCELLANY.**

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**In re Engagement Ring.**—Cupid weeps, for, verily, this is a harsh world. Science is disputing the Master Bowman's sovereignty with Eugenics, and what not. Now even the sordid law, in *Pollock v. Simon*, 205 Federal Reporter, 1105, solemnly decides that His Majesty's most sacred seal, the engagement ring, is subject to the rules of bankruptcy. Sarah Simon was given a 'diamond ring valued at \$350 in January, 1912. About three months later the donor went into voluntary bankruptcy. The trustee in bankruptcy now brings this action to recover the ring or its value. The court says: "The occasion was the announcement of his [the bankrupt's] engagement to marry the defendant, and there was nothing unusual about the fact that the gift was made or (considering the social position of the parties and the supposed financial condition of the bankrupt) about the cost of the ring. The defendant gave no consideration; the usual reciprocal promise to marry had previously been exchanged, and the transaction was therefore voluntary. \* \* \* Being insolvent, the law denied him [the bankrupt] the right within four months of his bankruptcy to take the \$350 of what was practically the money of his creditors and make a present of it to the defendant. No one would contend that he could make such a use of actual cash, however innocent the state of his mind might be; and the principle is the same, even if the money assume the shape of an engagement ring. The actual result of what he did is the important test, and the actual result has been that the defendant is now enjoying the possession of money (or money's worth) that was charged with a trust in favor of the bankrupt's creditors. \* \* \* In view of the customs that commonly govern the conduct of betrothed persons, there is some sentimental hardships about the conclusion; but the legal principles referred to seem to free the question from doubt. After all, a man must be just before he is generous; he should be generous with his own money, and not with the money of his creditors." The defendant was ordered to deliver the ring or its value.

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**African Judicial Procedure.**—A few weeks ago we awoke one morning to find that one of the kraals near the mission had been destroyed by fire during the night. On inquiry we found that the headman had been "smelt out." I had had many dealings with the man, and he had been honest and courteous as far as heathen could be. The facts were these: At another kraal about a mile away there was a child who had been sick about a month. The father called in a native witch-doctor, who decided that the headman living in the kraal near the mission had bewitched the child. The people ran toward the supposed guilty

man's kraal. They set fire to his hut, and the owner fled for his life to a neighboring tribe, fifteen miles away. His wife and children were scattered in every direction. A similar case was brought to our attention lately. About nine o'clock one night we saw a blaze to the west of the mission, in the kraal of one of the most respected natives in the community. The witch-doctor, who was consulted about another sick child, pointed out this man as the umtakati or witch. He denied it of course, and protested that he was innocent, and had no ill will toward any one. This, however, only aggravated the people, and his hut was soon in a blaze, and he was beaten so that in a few days he died.—Christian Herald.

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**Immune.**—Justice Sir William Grantham, of the King's Bench Division, who has just died in London, was a good deal of a character. He was noted for what was regarded as too great freedom of speech in his judicial opinions.

A story about Sir William was that, after protesting vainly to a man who was smoking in a nonsmoking railway carriage, he sought to impress the offender by handing him his card, with a threat to have the man arrested at the next station. But the man left the compartment quickly when the train stopped, and took a seat in another compartment. Justice Grantham sent the guard to get the man's name and address so that he could be prosecuted. When the guard returned he said:

"I wouldn't have him arrested, sir. I asked his name and he gave me this card. You see, he is Mr. Justice Grantham, sir." —New York Sun.